

**EXPEDITED  
Plan Review****Newsletter**

Division of Inspection Services

[www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/dem](http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/dem)**Next Exam Window: April 25 – May 2**

After the tremendous response to the *Expedited Plan Review Program*, it is expected that there will be many participants in the next round of NCPCCI exams. The next window begins on Saturday, April 25 and continues to Saturday May 2; however, the registration cut-off for this window was March 16.

With the new computerized testing method, participants can take up to four exams in one testing window. Anyone who does not pass may apply to re-take the exam in the next testing window.

Registration Cut off Date:	Testing Window:
May 8	June 20-27
July 10	August 22-29
September 10	October 24-31
November 1	December 12-19

To obtain a registration form to sit for an exam, contact:

The Chauncey Group, NCPCCI Program  
P.O. Box 6508  
Princeton, N.J. 08541-6508  
(609) 951-1230  
[www.chauncey.com](http://www.chauncey.com)

An application for exam registration must be received by the Chauncey Group by the cut off dates noted above. Once registered, candidates will receive an *Authorization To Test* card which is required to schedule an exam appointment, within the testing window dates, at a testing center. Testing centers are located at the following Sylvan Learning Centers:

4600C Lee Highway  
Arlington, VA 22207  
703-807-5813

8120 Woodmont Ave, Suite 150  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-718-9893

1025 Conn. Ave. NW, Suite 1015  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-955-5887

After passing all the required examinations, BOCA certification may be obtained. Send an application, along with the original examination results (please remember to make copies!) and the required fee to:

Building Officials and Code  
Administrators International  
4051 West Flossmoor Road  
Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5795  
(800) 323-1103  
[www.bocai.org](http://www.bocai.org)

**Review Classes**

Along with architects and engineers from the private sector, many Fairfax County inspectors and plan reviewers will also be taking the NCPCCI examinations. To help prepare County staff for these exams, the DEM Training Center provides code review classes. Architects and engineers participating in the *Expedited Plan Review Program* may attend; however, space is limited.

These classes will review code basics for the general and plan review exams, and they will provide tips on how to pass the NCPCCI exams. While the entire code cannot be taught in one three hour session, highlights on important chapters and sections can be explained. Please be aware that these classes are geared toward County field staff.

**Building General, Plan Review**

Exams: 1B, 1C  
Code: 1996 BOCA National Building Code  
Date: April 17, 1998  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Room 106  
Instructor: Brian Foley

**Mechanical General, Plan Review**

Exams: 4B, 4C  
Code: 1996 International Mechanical Code  
Date: to be announced  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Room 106  
Instructor: to be announced

**Electrical General**

Exam: 2B  
Code: 1996 National Electrical Code  
Date: April 16, 1998  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Room 106  
Instructor: Jerome Orimilikwe

**Plumbing General, Plan Review**

Exams: 5B, 5C  
Code: 1995 International Plumbing Code with the 1996 amendments  
Date: April 7, 1998  
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Room 122  
Instructor: Ken Smith

To register for these classes call the DEM Training Center at 703-324-1820 after April 3, 1998. The cost is \$10. First priority is given to County staff, so space is limited. All attendees are asked to bring a copy of the applicable codes. The DEM Training Center is located at 12055 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

**A.I.A./C.E.S.**

After contacting officials from the American Institute of Architects, Continuing Education System, it was learned that if the County were to register the *Expedited Plan Review Program* Annual Training Class for learning units, it would cost a minimum of \$500 annually. While DEM wishes to assist architects in obtaining learning units for attending this training, the department is unable to pay this fee.

There are two other alternatives with which to receive learning units from the training class. The first is to have the individual firms become *Registered Providers* of continuing education. This status will cost each firm \$800 annually. The firm is then responsible for reporting the training class. If AIA audits the record, it will be the firm's responsibility to justify those learning units, not the County's.

The second alternative is to self report the class. To do this, the architect must submit a self report form to the AIA. If an audit is conducted, it will be the individual architect that must justify the learning unit. In either case, please contact Evelyn McCamey of the AIA, at 202-626-7436 to learn more and to obtain the required forms.

## Reviewer Change

During the recent Annual Training Class held in February, a question was asked regarding a change in Peer Reviewers. What happens when the Peer Reviewer of record leaves the company? The answer was not resolved during the class, but the situation was recently discussed by County staff, and it was resolved as described below.

**Change in Peer Reviewer prior to the first submittal to the County:** If a new Peer Reviewer inherits a project halfway through its review, it is the new Peer Reviewer's responsibility to review the documents fully, deliver any code-related comments to the designer and provide the Recommendation Statement as if he or she had been the Peer Reviewer from the project's inception.

**Change in Peer Reviewer after the first submittal to the County:** If a new Peer Reviewer inherits a project after the original Peer Reviewer has recommended the drawings to the County, it is the new Peer Reviewer's responsibility to become familiar with the documents and be aware of the implications any changes he or she is recommending will have with regard to code compliance. Any corrections or revisions must bear the Recommendation Statement of the *new* Peer Reviewer.

The new Peer Reviewer is not required to be in the same firm as the original reviewer. For the sake of consistency, the County strongly recommends that the same Peer Reviewers be responsible from the project's onset to its conclusion.

## Code Interpretation

FORMAL Code Interpretation No. 5/1009/96. Approved October 16, 1996. BOCA National Building Code/1996 Sections 1009.1, 1010.0 and 1017.2.

Question #1: Can the required egress capacity of each egress element from a room or space be determined by dividing the design occupant load of that space by the number of exits and exit access doorways that lead directly from the space?

Answer: Yes. Section 1009.1 requires the total capacity of all egress elements from a room or space to equal or exceed the design occupant load of the space as determined in accordance with Section 1008.1. Be aware that the design occupant load is the largest number of occupants derived by the application of Sections 1008.1.1, 1008.1.2, 1008.1.3 and 1008.1.6.

An equal distribution of occupants between all egress elements leading out of a space reasonably approximates the use of multiple egress components from most occupancies should emergency evacuation be required. Note, however that Section 1006.2.2 required a more conservative egress distribution for assembly occupancies based on higher occupant load densities. Those egress elements that contribute to the required egress capacity from the space (e.g. exterior exit door, exit stairway, or exit access doorway) must be identified with "exit" signs as required by Section 1023.0 and comply with the other applicable provisions of Chapter 10.

Question #2: Is it mandatory for nonrequired doorways to contribute to the egress capacity of the room or space from which they lead?

Answer: No. The minimum required number of exits and exit access elements specified in Sections 1010.0 and 1017.2 provide an acceptable level of safety for the occupants. While additional doorways are permitted, they are not specifically required to comply with all provisions of Chapter 10. Nonrequired doorways are to be constructed such that they serve their intended purpose without creating a hazard to the building occupants or general public. Accordingly, nonrequired doorways must not be identified as means of egress unless they fully comply with the applicable provisions of Chapter 10.

## Permit Services

A class covering the *Expedited Plan Review Program* is being offered to all permit runners or permit service employees doing business within Fairfax County. The class will review the basics of the program and aspects of the program specific to these services.

The class will be held on March 30, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 122 of the Herrity Building. Registration is not required and the class is free.

## Annual Training

The next County Annual Training Class will be offered on May 20, 1998 in Room 106 of the Herrity Building. All prospective Peer Reviewers, who did not attend the February 25, 1998 training, are encouraged to attend. Annual training is only required to be taken once a year. A registration form is attached.

The requirement to have successfully passed all required NCPCCI exams and to have obtained BOCA certification has once again been waived for this class.

## Code Highlight

**717.1.2 Doors in exit enclosures:** All doorway opening protectives for exit enclosures shall be labeled means of egress fire doors and shall have a maximum transmitted temperature end point of not more than 450 degrees F. (232 degrees C.) above ambient at the end of 30 minutes of standard fire test exposure.

**Exception:** The maximum transmitted temperature end point is not required in buildings equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 906.2.1 or 906.2.2.

When reviewing the requirements of a fire door assembly, be aware that the doors in exit enclosures must also meet the requirements of this section in addition to the required rating noted in Table 717.1. This condition is most often found in non-sprinklered buildings such as office condominiums.

## Peer Reviewers

Congratulations to the first Certified Peer Reviewers. Please see the enclosed sheet for a current list.